

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for testing a software application comprising:
  - associating a test case class with each of a plurality of operations, wherein each operation includes a collaborative behavior of a plurality of classes;
  - receiving a hierarchically organized test scenario, the test scenario including at least one selected, nested test case class;
  - receiving ranking information for the test scenario, the ranking information pertaining to relative prioritization of execution of each of the selected test case classes; and
  - performing a test of the test scenario, as a function of the ranking information.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct with respect to a framework semantics.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct by defining valid start states and probable end states for each associated operation.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct with respect to a framework semantics by providing an editor that allows only a valid nesting of test cases.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer system for testing a software application, comprising:  
a storage device, the storage device storing a plurality of test case classes; and  
a processor, wherein the processor is adapted to:  
associate a test case class with each of a plurality of operations, wherein each operation includes a collaborative behavior of a plurality of classes;  
receive a hierarchically organized test scenario, the test scenario including at least one selected, nested test case class;  
receive ranking information for the test scenario, the ranking information pertaining to relative prioritization execution of each of the selected test case classes; and  
perform a test of the test scenario as a function ranking information.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct with respect to a framework semantics.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct by defining valid start states and probable end states for each associated operation.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct with respect to a framework semantics by providing an editor that allows only a valid nesting of test cases.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A program storage device, the program storage device including instructions for:]]~~ A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer-executable program to perform the method comprising:

associating a test case class with each of a plurality of operations, wherein each operation includes a collaborative behavior of a plurality of classes;

receiving a hierarchically organized test scenario, the test scenario including at least one selected, nested test case class;

receiving ranking information for the test scenario, the ranking information pertaining to relative prioritization execution of each of the selected test case classes; and

performing a test of the test scenario as a function ranking information.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The program storage device according to claim 11]]~~ The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct with respect to a framework semantics.

14. (Currently Amended) [[The program storage device according to claim 13]] The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct by defining valid start states and probable end states for each associated operation.

15. (Currently Amended) [[The program storage device according to claim 13]] The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the ranking information is validated to be semantically correct with respect to a framework semantics by providing an editor that allows only a valid nesting of test cases.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system for testing a software application comprising:  
a test module;

at least one nested test case class defined for each of a plurality of operations, wherein the operation is characterized as having a beginning and an end, wherein each operation includes a collaborative behavior of each of the classes;

a first portion for receiving first information describing valid start states and probable end states for each test case class;

a second portion for receiving second information for relating at least a portion of the test case classes to reflect a particular hierarchically organized scenario for testing; and

a third portion for performing a test of the particular hierarchically organized scenario as a function of the first information and second information.